

# Maine Department of Education



# Celebrations

## Service Learning Summit

March-April 2004

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Students from service-learning sites throughout New England will gather at the University of Southern Maine, Gorham Campus, on March 25 and 26 to participate in a 2-day KIDS Student Summit. Over 300 participants from 25+ communities are expected to attend. This year's Summit has been organized and

planned with the help of eighth graders from Minot, Maine.

Service Learning Project presentations are a highlight of the Summit along with a keynote speaker, teambuilding activities and small group workshops.

For more information, con-

tact KIDS Consortium by phone at 784-0956, on the web at [www.kidsconsortium.org](http://www.kidsconsortium.org) or via email at [tmarin@kidsconsortium.org](mailto:tmarin@kidsconsortium.org).

**Create, Think, Excel**



## Hall of Flags Ceremony

The February 11<sup>th</sup> Hall of Flags Ceremony to celebrate Career and Technical Education week was a huge success.

"I spent most of my time listening to and being impressed by students. The morning was a great re-



minder for those of us with limited daily student contact [about] the importance of what we do." Jim

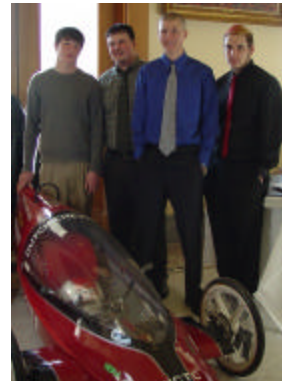


McGowan, Center for Career Development

"It was such a joy talking with the students and listening to their plans and goals for the future -- such a mature group of young adults! The entertainment as well as the food was ex-

cellent." Pam St. Peter, Maine Education Leadership Consortium.

Mark February 16, 2005 on your calendars, as the CTE team will be hosting this celebration again next year.



### Inside this issue:

SkillsUSA/VICA	2
HOSA	3
FFA	3
DECA	3
Web Sites	4

## Region III student places third in national welding competition

By Chris DeBeck

After finishing as one of the top high school welders in the country at the recent VICA/Skills USA national competition in Kansas City, Mo., Arthur Osborne Jr. of Chester is setting his sights just a bit higher. "I want to go back out there," he said in a recent interview after finishing third out of 47 competitors in the welding skills portion of the national VICA contest. "I think I can do it."

Osborne, a recent Mattanawcook Academy graduate, finished first at the state VICA competition earlier this year, which allowed him to qualify for the national event. His instructor, David Hartley, isn't surprised at Osborne's success.

"He's focused on what he wanted," Hartley said. "All I did was point him in the direction of what he should do. I do that with all my students, show them how to get there."

At the national competition, Osborne and the other state VICA winners competed in a large civic center totaling 500,000 square feet, with separate spaces for each of the different competitions.

"It's huge," he said. "They don't let you go up there until the day of the competition."

The first day of the competition consisted of a written test and an

interview, Osborne said. He started welding during the second and third day of the competition, taking up to an hour to complete some of the welds.

"They gave you plenty of time," he said.

After the welds were complete, three different judges would inspect the piece and write down their comments.



Hartley estimated that there was about eight hours worth of welding in the national competition.

Also on the third day, a weld inspection was conducted. According to Osborne, each welding student had to examine a defective weld and determine whether it would meet national welding codes.

The winners were announced at the end of the week.

"They keep them on a pretty good schedule," Hartley said. "Every day they had stuff to go do."

Although he would like to have finished first, Osborne said he enjoyed his stay in Kansas City. "It was fun," he said. "I had a real good time."

Prizes and scholarships are offered to VICA winners, which draws support from many large companies like The Home Depot, Lincoln Electric and Miller and organizations like the American Welding Society, according to Hartley.

Now that Osborne has graduated from MA, he will take his welding talents to Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor, where he will major in welding. He can compete in VICA next year, but at the college level.

He could match the success of another Region III student, Joel Stanley. The Schenck of East Milinocket graduate competed for Region III in the adult education arena and was invited to participate in national welding trials. Both Stanley and Osborne will have a chance to be among six people selected to compete in a worldwide competition.

Hartley believes Osborne could join Stanley in representing Region III at the national and international levels.

"I think it's a matter of keeping him motivated, focused," Hartley said.

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## Student Organizations by Elaine Briggs

### HOSA



On April 1 and 2, the Samoset in Rockport will host the Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Conference.

After registration on Thursday afternoon, written and oral tests will be given and spelling bees will be conducted. A buffet dinner will be followed by a business meeting and judging of chapter events and entries. Be sure to save some energy for the evening entertainment and time at the indoor pool.

A general session will follow Friday breakfast with competitive skill events taking place after lunch. The day is topped off with an awards ceremony.

Competitive events winners (first through fifth place) are eligible to compete in the National HOSA conference held on June 23-26, 2004 in Orlando, Florida.

Registration deadlines are fast approaching. For more information, or if you know of someone interested in being a judge, contact Gail Mazzaro at 624-6743.

### FFA



The leadership training hosted by the University of Maine at Presque Isle on January 29<sup>th</sup> was fun as well as educational – for students and their teachers. A

similar workshop was conducted on January 28 at the Portland West Holiday Inn.



Trainer Andrew McCrea, past National FFA secretary, with the help of current and former State Officers, Jeff Blackstone, Micaela Hotham, Heidi Libby and Mike Ireland, led the students in a variety of activities around the theme of “Climbing the Next Mountain of Leadership”. The students covered topics ranging from Survival of the Fittest to Mapping your Future.



While the students played “Career Jeopardy”, Kevin Keith and Mike Honeycut, National FFA staff, introduced their teachers to the concept of e(ngaging)-moments. The “Dickens” Moment resulted in an interesting story about a motor; the “Mother Goose” Moment showed that none of them should

leave their day jobs to go into poetry.



On February 26 and 27, the South Portland Marriott hosted the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine State DECA Career Development Conference. Approximately 150 students and chaperones attended from Caribou, Oxford Hills, Region 10, Lewiston and Westbrook.

Thursday’s schedule started off with written tests for the entire group, followed by lunch, role play events, college exhibits and more written exams. Commis-



sioner of Education Susan Gendron topped off the evening banquet as the Keynote Speaker.

Maine humorist, Gary Crocker, kept people awake Friday morning. The

slate of officers from Oxford Hills Technical School



was elected with no opposition. At the noon banquet, students cheered on their schoolmates as competition winners and awards were announced.



## Maine Department of Education

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Excellence is the result of caring more than others think is wise; risking more than others think is safe, dreaming more than others think is practical and expecting more than others think is possible. Dream. Risk. Expect. Be Blessed!

Author Unknown

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## Web Sites Worth a Look

### <http://www.tolerance.org>

Excellent site with goal to “fight hate and promote tolerance”. Provides hidden bias tests and articles to raise awareness.

### <http://www.libraryspot.com>

The ultimate reference for everything from acronyms to zip codes. Other features include “You Asked for It” (how to convert inches to centimeters; what does this phone number spell), “Do You Know” (trivia), and “Lists” (Top 100 Movies; Best Companies to Work For).

### <http://www.careervoyages.gov>

This site provides great tools to compare job compensation by skill level, education level, and location. Information is available for every state.

### <http://www.jobshadow.org>

Want to see what a job looks like? This site features video clips of real people at work and talking about their jobs.

### <http://www.learnthenet.com>

Available in English, French and

Spanish, this site offers mini-courses, news articles, interactive classes and games. Titles include “10 Things You Can Do on the Net”, “Communicate Effectively with E-mail” and “Test Your Net IQ”.

